Labor - 1921.

District of Columbia.

Demand for.

WASHINGTON D. C. STAR
FEBRUARY 15. 1921

1,000 NEGROES NEED JOBS.

Dr. Drew Has Long Lists of Unemployed Colored People.

More than 1,000 colored people in Washington, Alexandria and Arlington are unemployed, according to a statement issued today by Dr. Simon P. W. Drew, president of the White Cross Free Labor Bureau. The names of these persons have been listed by him and he is endeavoring to obtain work for them.

Dr. Drew requested that persons needing domestics, cooks and laborers communicate with him at the headquarters of the labor bureau, 921 N street.

Labor - 1921.

Tennessee

SEE END OF TERROR IN R. R. CASES

The Chicago Defender
10/15/21

Signed Confession Names White Fireman as Slayer of Henry Hager

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 14.—An investigation into the killing of brakemen and flagmen on the Illinois Central has resulted in the arrest of several white men said to have been hired to commit wholesale murders in order to create positions for the vast army of unemployed among their race.

Slayers Wrong Man

Following the confession of J. M. Baker (white), who was arrested after A. S. McDonald, [illegible] white, a conductor, had been shot by the former while walking the top of a freight car, other evidence has been collected that threatens to expose the "higher-up" in the murder plot. Baker, eager to carry out his "contract" and collect $200 for killing his man, made the fatal mistake of shooting "out of turn" and peppering a white man with shots instead of mutilating a brakeman of our Race. According to his own statement, he had been given orders from ringleaders of the attack to kill a "tall yellow nigger" who would appear on a train at Millington, a few miles from Memphis.

The last to be arrested and charged with murder is John Phillips (white), former Illinois Central fireman.

On the night of May 6, at Raines, Tenn., Henry Hager, a railroad employe, was shot and killed by Phillips, according to the confession given the police here by Baker. Hager, a faithful worker of the Illinois Central system, was murdered in cold blood as he stood near a freight car when the train stopped at a water tank. Investigators sent from the Chicago office of the Illinois Central could find no clue to the guilty parties.

Almost Escapes

Baker, after being arrested and [illegible] through the third degree, signed a confession in which he named Phillips as the slayer. Phillips, by a cleverly worded habeas corpus petition, was on the verge of being released from custody when Assistant City Attorney E. R. Klewer produced a warrant charging him with murder. Baker's life has been threatened since he confessed his part in the plot.

The murders of railroad men have been going on since last February. Four men have been killed and many seriously injured because they would not give up their jobs to unemployed white men. It is estimated that the Illinois Central officials are spending $15,000 a week to clear up the situation.

The reign of terror has been checked somewhat, but threatening letters are still being sent to the men who are working. The murderers are believed to have been given legal advice due to the fact that they have avoided shooting men on passenger trains, thus retarding the transportation of mail which calls for government prosecution.

Labor - 1921

Demand for.

NEGROES FLOCK SOUTH TO FIND JOBS ARE FEW

Cotton Planters Take Advantage of Large Emigration by Reducing Wages Already Low.

N. Y. CALL
MAY 22, 1921

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—In the period of general depression and unemployment which has hit the entire nation, the South, or, rather, Southern employers and planters have come into their own, for reports of labor agencies throughout the South today showed that the tens of thousands of Negroes who left the exploitation and misery of the cotton fields for higher wages in the North are speedily flocking back to be re-employed by their former masters.

And they do not return to a pleasant haven, labor statisticians declare, for there is an abundance of farm labor now here and consequently an extremely low wage and a high percentage of unemployment. In some states, according to these statisticians, there are already 118 persons for every 100 farm jobs, and the influx from the North has hardly begun.

Cause of Emigration.

The sudden emigration to the South, while due mainly to industrial conditions in the North, was greatly hastened and enlarged by the tactics said to have been employed by Southern interests to lure the Negro back and thus lower the wages paid in the cotton fields.

Among these tactics was the persecution of Negroes in cities of the Middle West, particularly in Chicago. Here the many restrictions placed upon them in matters of living quarters and civil rights caused fierce race-riots.

The organization of the Ku Klux Klan in many Northern cities, according to officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was begun merely to drive the Negro back to the South by terroristic methods.

Advanced Carfare Home.

The survey of labor agencies in the South revealed that many of the Negroes who left the South in the hunt for money are being advanced their carfare home.

In Mississippi and Georgia comparatively few Negroes went North, while in Louisiana a number of Negroes have returned. Nevertheless farms do not apprehend any labor shortage at cotton chopping time.

F. W. Gist, agricultural statistician of Alabama, who has just completed a survey of labor conditions in Alabama, declared today that Negroes have returned in crowds to that state from the North.

In Alabama, statistics show, there are already 118 persons for every hundred farm jobs.

In Tennessee and Arkansas, employment bureaus estimate that approximately 65 per cent of the Negroes of those states who went North have gone back. Farmers believe they will find plenty of laborers.

SPRINGFIELD MO REPUBLICAN
APRIL 26, 1921

More Farm Labor In South.

In the South, the return of many negroes to their homes, after the exodus during the war to the North, has greatly increased the supply of negro labor. For a time the Northern industrial centers appeared as an earthly paradise to Southern negroes. But the negro laborers were the first to be affected by the slump in industry. Many have been glad to get back home in the South, and most of those who have returned have a saner view of the relative opportunities in the South and in the North.

Many of the white workers in the cities who went from the country under the lure of the big wages and easy hours realized all the time that their employment was of a temporary nature, and they were prepared to seek their former occupations in the rural districts again when conditions in the cities became unfavorable.

This is an encouraging sign for agriculture. With an adequate supply of labor at reasonable wages one of the big problems of the farm is solved. With this out of the way, it will be easier to dispose of some of the others.—Houston Post.

UNEMPLOYMENT AFFECTS NEGRO WORKERS MOST

Urban League Conference Of Chicago Brings Depressing Revelations

Baltimore Maryland
11/23/21

PITTSBURG SITUATION BEST

Ohio-American

Local Workers Keep Large Number In Big Industrial Plants

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27—The country-wide unemployment is affecting the colored worker more than any other is the opinion of sixty representatives of twenty states who attended the annual conference of the National Urban League here last week.

Elmer A. Carter of Louisville, ntucky, speaking for the Neoes of that city presented their iculties in an increase of seven cent in death rate due to bad using in three years, the inase in dependency and unemyment and feared that the ren to normalcy would mean an ven greater pressure for Negroes who moved from the South.

John T. Clark of Pittsburg reported a more favorable situation. The plan of Negro social workers in plants proved successful. During the depression Negroes were retained as seventeen percent of the force.

The session on unemployment brought out the most depressing revelations of the conference. Discussions were led by William R. Connors of Cleveland, John C. Dancy of Detroit, William L. Evans of Chicago and Willoughby G. Walling of the Chicago Unemployment Conference. In general it appeared that the industrial depression had struck hardest the Negro workers who form one-seventh of the labor supply, that they are suffering from the preference policies adopted in many plants, that certain social organizations have thru necessity developed the technique for handling the distress and dependency consequent to it. Forty percent of the wage earning Negroes of Cleveland are unemployed. The city, however, is expending large sums of money to relieve distress and make jobs.

Detroit has also developed a plan for making jobs for the jobless. Chicago is farthest behind. As Mr. Walling stated, the legal safe-guards created to protect the city and state from other evils, unfortunately imposes a technicality which ties the hands of authorities in this emergency. The Chicago Urban League made the first organized effort in the city to care for unemployed. It served more than 60,000 meals and gave 41,000 shelter tickets.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13

Labor — 1921
Demand for

Unemployment And The Negro's Status

Colored Employees First to Be Affected by Industrial Slump

The New York Age
1-1-21

Is Unskilled Worker

As Most Recent Comer Into Industrial Field Is Less Considered by Employers Who Favor Workers of Longest Tenure

By HOWARD D. GREGG,
Industrial Secretary, New York Urban League.

More than 3,000,000 people in our country are unemployed. The fact that the Negro is a part of the commonwealth and must also suffer with the whole is a truism too evident for discussion. This is simply saying, that what affects the whole affects also the parts. This fact is clear and generally known.

It is not generally known, however, that the Negro as a part of the whole must suffer more than any other part because of reasons which are not altogether evident.

A review of the situation today makes this fact more convincing. The present slump is in the field of industry, and the Negro was the last to enter this field in large numbers. This means two things:—1() That he is newest on the job (2) being new he has had less opportunity to become efficient. But this is not all. His newness has its effect upon both his employer and himself. The employed is less inclined to favor the newcomer and especially one that was taken on in a case of emergency.

He is apt to let him go because the emergency is no longer present. Again the Negro himself is affected by his newness in that he has had less time in which to adjust himself and less time in which to prove his fitness and get on the good side of employers. These are facts, not theories, though the Negro is not altogether responsible.

Unskilled Worker Loses Out.

A careful observation of the proportionate number of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled persons out of work will show that the unskilled worker is the greatest sufferer. This is but natural. Employers are reluctant to let go their skilled workers and wherever possible will relieve the unskilled and keep the skilled. Investigations show that in many instances, skilled workers have been reduced to semi-skilled positions, and in others the skilled workers are covering the ground of the skilled workers who have been laid off. This matter of skilled and unskilled quite naturally affects the Negro. As a newcomer he has had less opportunity to move up from the unskilled class into that of the skilled, even if conditions were favorable. His newness here again reacts against him. A truth which we hate to admit is, that the majority of Negro workers are unskilled and since the crisis affects most the unskilled, the colored man most of all is hit hard.

The Negro is not only the newest in the field of industry and falls chiefly into the unskilled class, but he is the separate individual worker who, of course, suffers more than the group. He it is, who is mostly out of the union, he it is who is least organized and, hence, imposed upon. In the particular case under consideration, this fact has not been changed. The process of elimination has been gradual and in almost every instance union workers were the last ones to be laid off.

Employers may prefer the separate individual worker and in some instances may spasmodically fire the whole union if enough unorganized workers are present. But when the elimination process is slow, the whole situation is changed. The tale of woe is universal as it has always been; namely that the unorganized, unaffiliated, separate workers are mostly the greatest sufferers. One or two instances may suffice. A dress house on West 27th street, New York City, discharged 96 employees, 91 of whom were colored girls. All discharged were non-union workers.

When the ships arrive at the docks, the local union is always called to work en masses. The individual, separate applicant hasn't a chance unless perishable goods must be unloaded or the ship must immediately discharge its cargo to sail on schedule time.

Industrial Prejudice.

Not only is the Negro newest in the field of industry, and hence has had less opportunity to pass into the skilled class, and not only is he unorganized and separate; but he stands face to face with prejudice in industry as in all other matters in our country. His color here again is a barrier which cannot be lightly considered. Employers and managers who are white, invariably discharge their colored workers first. Colored girls who have been laid off affirm that they as a group were the earliest ones to go, notwithstanding that they were just as efficient as their white co-workers.

Interviews substantiate this conclusion. In a recent interview with an employer, this assertion was made:—They, referring to the colored girls, were employed solely on account of the shortage of labor and our white girls appreciating the fact acquiesced in working with them but as soon as the situation clears itself no more colored help will be employed. A firm on West 27th street, when they began putting off workers, discharged three colored girls who had served them three years, two years and sixteen months respectively. They were mostly old standbys in the firm.

The Negro domestics, though less affected by the crisis, have complained of being put off for white workers or antagonized by unreasonable wage reduction and the spirit of independence of their employer that they were forced to leave their jobs. It has also been discovered that an aristocratic, big four hundred committee composed of well to-do white persons has been visiting factories persuading employers to use white workers. They emphasize the duty of the "land of the free and the home of the brave" to the immigrant who is now within our gates. The duty to the Negro is considered as a matter of the past.

To get a slight idea of the situation it may be well to cite some statistics. During November, 1919, the Juvenile Department of the Urban League placed more than 43 out of 70 persons who applied—more than 50 percent. During November, 1920, out of 349 applicants only 56—less than 17 percent of the applicants—were placed. December 12 1919, the Urban League placed 50 per cent of its applicants. During the corresponding week in 1920, little less than 12 per cent were placed. The Juveniles of course, suffer more than any other group. Another social agency during the same week in 1919 placed 71 persons out of 139 who applied. During the corresponding week in 1920, only 72 were placed out of 319 who applied. These facts show conclusively that the situation is by no means hopeful.

Post-War Readjustment.

The present crises has been attributed to the foreseeen exchange, emigration refusal to buy on the part of the community, politics and improper legislation. All are brought in for their share of the blame. These may be contributing factors but the inevitable reaction from a period of plenty and extravagence or the post-war adjustment which could not be longer delayed, has set in and is destined to run the gauntlet to readjustment. It is simply the law of supply and demand and unless legislative measures take this into account efforts for reform will be useless. All laws that have neglected this axiom have failed from the days when the Roman Emperor, Diocletian, issued his famous edict, making it punishable by death for the Roman exchange to charge more than official prices to a Roman household—down to the present time. This country however, should be able to adjust itself without any serious inconvenience to the inhabitants.

But we are particularly interested in the Negro. He, being one of the greatest sufferers, must be cautious of all. He should stick to his job as far as is reasonably possible, accept the gradual readjustments. Spasmodic outbursts avail nothing. It is the sober, sensible person that wins. The colored worker should seize every opportunity for advancement and work with a reasonable assurance that the time is not far distant when he will come into his own. His present industrial status, if it is to be maintained at all, will be kept only by vigilance, willingness and efficiency.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Unemployment of Negroes in Chicago is Becoming a Serious Problem

Investigation Shows There are Eight Hundred Idle Colored Persons for Every One Hundred Jobs Available

Situation Becoming Appalling Daily

Unemployment among colored people is widespread and serious. No figures are available but with the number growing daily, several thousands will soon be idle. This condition s not localized. It prevails all over the country. The daily papers report 160 men idle for every 100 jobs available. The situation is thought to be worse among colored people. The Urban League's Industrial Department was visted during November by 5,026 applicants for work, while only 609 were sent to work. This shows that among Negroes there are 800 persons idle for every 100 jobs available. Of this 5,026—2,093 were women and 2,933 men. Indications point to a larger attendance and fewer jobs in December than in November. Firms employing the largest numbers of Negroes report that more men will be out of work after Christmas. Sears, Roebusy & Company and Rand-McNally & Company are discharking all of their colored workers (clerks, book-binders, map-mounters, etc.) at this time. Conditions may be bad for the entire winter. Daily calls to 30 or more of Chicago's largest employers secure very few jobs. Frequently firms report hundreds of men at their gates. Men who have been out of work for a long time are steadily growing desperate. Hungry men are dangerous men.

Here Are Some Facts and Figures:

A poll of 27 of the League's male applicants showed the following:

2 men out of work for 1 week
3 men out of work for 2 weeks
9 men out of work for 4 weeks
9 men out of work for 2 months
1 man out of work for 3 months
2 men out of work for 4 months
1 man out of work for 6 months

In other words, only 5 of the 27 men were out of work for less than a month. It would be easy for anyone of the remaining 22 to become a criminal.

Notwithstanding this alarming situation men and women leave jobs for every possible frivolous excuse. Some girls who worked in a loop department store quit their jobs because "they couldn't keep awake" and because "the carpet was too soft for their feet." Again, some colored power machine workers quit because they "didn't want to work with white girls." Other excuses, such as "couldn't work on Sunday," "couldn't agree with the boss," "didn't want to work outside,' "could not wait two weeks for pay," and the like, come to us frequently.

Tabulated causes of unemployment of 76 male applicants showed the following:

22 or 30 per cent quit their jobs.
41 or 54 per cent were laid off.
13 or 16 per cent gave no good reason for being without work.

Tabulated causes of unemployment of 70 female applicants showed the following:

28 or 40 per cent quit their jobs.
30 or 43 per cent were laid off.
12 or 17 per cent gave no good reason for being without work.

One hundred cards picked at random from our files of male applicants gave the following information:

Male Section.

10 men had been given no job
48 men had been given 1 job
21 men had been given 2 jobs
5 men had been given 3 jobs
3 men had been given 4 jobs
3 men had been given 5 jobs
6 men had been given 6 jobs
1 man had been given 13 jobs

100 men had been given 204 jobs

Female Section.

40 women had been given no job
46 women had been given 1 job
7 women had been given 2 jobs
4 women had been given 3 jobs
1 woman had been given 4 jobs
1 woman had been given 7 jobs
1 woman had been given 9 jobs

100 women had been given 92 jobs

(90 men had used 204 jobs—2.26 jobs per capita)

(60 women had used 92 jobs—1.53 jobs per capita)

WHAT YOU CAN DO!!!

You can help inform the public of the seriousness of the situation. The working people should know that jobs are scarce and that shiftlessness is far too prevalent among working classes. They have never taken seriously their recently acquired industrial opportunities.

Admonish them to do away with frivolous excuses. They should be on the job on time and every day. Employers are keeping the efficient workers and letting the others out. Many people are quitting their jobs for no reason whatever, and can't find another job after they quit.

Colored girls are having to go back into domestic service, and men are compelled to rely upon porter work, the two principal occupations for Negroes until the migration of 1916. Most of the people out of work are those who have failed to make good when they had the chance. The good men have been kept.

European immigrants are coming to America at the rate of a million a year.

Colored people have been retained in some places in proportionately larger numbers than whites, but these instances are rare.

As a result of the unemployment situation, poverty and suffering greet us on every hand. If proper care had been given to savings and practical economy, much begging and distress of families might have been avoided.

But—There is good in everything, and this dilemma, depressing and discouraging as it is, is not without virtue. Our leaders should now more than ever emphasize thrift, economy, regularity, and efficiency so that when conditions are again normal and employment stable, we may take up our occupations with determination to "make good."

If the unemployment of so many seems to indicate our deficiencies and enables our leaders to warn against improper actions in the future, then this condition may be a propitious epoch in our industrial advancement.

The test is being made now to determine whether the colored people will retain their places in northern industry or not. **They will not unless they make good. They will if they render satisfactory service.**

The churches co-operating in the movement are: Quinn Chapel A. M. E., Morning Star Baptist, St. Mary's, Grant Memorial, Bethel A. M. E. and Salem Baptist.

UNEMPLOYMENT 1921

Unemployment is not abating. From the records of the Chicago Urban League, out of a total of 1,715 persons who applied for work last week, only 51 were supplied. The highest number of men sent to employment in any one day was four. On Friday not a single man secured employment.

The placements of women were more than three times greater than for men; the exact figures were 12 for men and 38 for women. This is about the same as for last week. This means that the employment situation, in so far as it concerns our Race, is not improving.

Many single men are without shelter and meals. Men who were boarders in families, finding themselves unable to pay room rent, have called at the offices of the league and asked for assistance. The churches have borne the responsibility of feeding these and furnishing them with free beds. While donations of meat and the use of cots were made through the intercessions of the league, the churches have had much expense and their workers have given unselfishly of their time and energy in caring for these men. Last week alone 1,876 free meals were given and 590 men were sent to free beds.

LABOR BULLETIN

Unemployment continues to affect members of the Race in Chicago. There seems to be no let-up in the cases of distress that the Urban league has had to assist. The league is now being used as a clearing house for persons who wish clothing, meals and work. The churches and the Y. M. C. A. are providing lodging and food to persons referred to them by the Urban league.

During the week of Jan. 8, 322 applications for relief were received, 279 meals were served, 163 beds were provided, and 120 jobs furnished. Some few cases known to the churches did not go through the league's office, so the total number helped would exceed the number given here.

Shiloh Baptist church, of which Rev. H. D. Harris is pastor, is weekly giving the league a fund to assist in the special cases. Last week these special cases totaled 23. Nine of these required medical attention and were sent to dispensaries and physicians. One was returned home and 13 were relieved by the United Charities, Home for the Friendless and several of the churches.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor – 1921.

Illinois

Demand for

The Unemployment Situation Among Colored People Still Remains Very Serious

Searchlight 1/22/21

Hundreds of Persons Are Fed Daily and Given Shelter by Our Churches

Olivet to Open Free Lodging House

According to information gathered by the Chicago Urban League in co-operation with the Citizens' Relief Committee of Chicago, the unemployment situation among colored people continues serious. As evidence of this, during the past week, 1,878 persons have applied at the Chicago Urban League for work and relief resulting from unemployment. 1,314 of these persons made direct application for relief.

Through the organizations co-operating with the Citizens' Relief Committee of Chicago 701 meals have been served hungry men, and 307 beds provided for the homeless.

A few weeks ago requests of this kind were few, but at the present time they have grown to such serious proportions that the Citizens' Relief Committee, through its Secretary, made a special appeal to the Ministers' Alliances for support in enlarging its work.

The Ebenezer section of the Baptist Ministers & Deacons' Alliance endorsed the recommendation and urged its members to be present at the meeting on next Tuesday morning in the Committee Room of the Y. M. C.A. Many well known churches, civic organizations, and women's clubs are represented at these meetings.

As a result of the deliberations of this committee, a sub-committee on ways and means, of which Rev. Stewart, pastor of Quinn Chapel A. M. E. Church, was made chairman, was appointed to draft a constructive plan for increasing the Committee's activities.

Salem Baptist Church and Bethel A. M. E. Church are daily serving dinner to hundreds of needy men. The seriousness of the situation resulting from widespread and continued unemployment of colored workers is evident in the large totals mentioned above. It is a deplorable fact that young men have been forced to sleep in the pool-rooms and so-called clubs because of their destitute condition.

In the opinion of those in attendance at the Citizens' Relief Committee meeing on Tuesday morning, it appears that the unemployment situation is a serious and perplexing community problem.

The Chicago Urban League, which acts as a clearing house for those seeking relief, has been literally swamped with requests of assistance in the way fo food, clothing and shelter. The public's attention is invited to this perplexing problem, and those who are interested are requested to attend the weekly sessions of the Citizens' Relief Committee every Tuesday morning in the lecture room of the Wabash Ave. Y. M. C. A.

What Olivet is Doing for the Unemployed.

Before any other church in the city was alive to the seriousness of the situation the Olivet Baptist Church saw what was coming, and began making preparations for it. She has been and is now feeding many people who are out of work and in destitute circumstances. Any number of persons have applied to the church for help to return to their homes in the South or some other part of the country, and no worthy person, regardless of creed or color, is ever turned away. All the winter the church has been providing sleeping quarters, in the Day Nursery, and in the church parsonage, for poor families. The Day Nursery has been a blessing to so many poor mothers who have left their babies during the day, and in many cases, both mother and baby have been kept, day and night without charge. The money given and loaned to poor and needy families to buy coal and food, and to pay rent runs well up into the hundreds. Every week the church has filled prescriptions for sick people, who are not able to help themselves. The church's auto bus has carried the children of the kindergarten back and forth to the church; it has carried the old folks home from the Sunday services, and in many cases gone to their homes and brought them to the church, and all the services of the Bus is free of charge. The Free Employment Bureau has placed several hundreds in jobs. Any number of boys and girls have been helped to go back to school, which would have been impossible otherwise.

When the Day Nursery and other places at the church has been filled to their greatest capacity, young men, both white and colored have been lodged at hotels at the expense of the church.

Olivet has not published her social work, she has not been hasty in advertising the free soup kitchen, nor opening free lodging houses, but quietly and steadily she has been doing the work of the Master. There is no other church in the city of any race or denomination, that is doing the work she is doing so effectively and on so large a scale. Within a few days she will have a hundred beds at 27th St. and the lower floor will be turned into a well equipped lodging house, with showed baths and all necessary modern sanitation. In connection with this lodging house, will be expert medical inspection, and a clinic, so as to protect the innocent against social diseases.

Olivet believes in doing things in a scientific way, and until she is able to do charity on a sound basis she prefers to make no pretentions.

Labor Situation

Whip 2/26/21

From The Urban League

Unemployment is not abating. From the records of the Chicago Urban League, out of a total of 1,715 persons who applied for work last week, only 51 were supplied. The highest number of men sent to employment in any one day was 4. On Friday, not a single man secured employment.

The placements of women were more than three times greater than that for men; the exact figures being 12 for men and 38 for women. This is about the same as for last week. This means that the employment situation, in so far as it concerns our race is not improving.

Many single men are without shelter and meals. Men who were boarders in families, finding themselves unable to pay room rent have called at the offices of the League and asked for assistance. The churches have borne the responsibility of feeding these and furnishing them with free beds. While donations of meat and the use of cots were made through the intercessions of the League, the churches have had much expense and their workers have given unselfishly of their time and energy in caring for these men. Last week alone, 1,876 free meals were given and 590 men were sent to free beds.

CHICAGO ILL. TRIBUNE

MARCH 6, 1921

JOBS FOR NEGROES.

Elgin, Ill., March 5.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—Referring to the numerous complaints of the colored brethren in regard to being unable to secure employment now in Chicago and other places, I was talking last night with a traveling man who had just visited several sections of the south. He advised me that if the former employés of the southland would go back there their old employers (many of them) would be glad to furnish them with employment and good housing quarters. As it is hardly probable that the industrial situation will improve in Chicago sufficiently soon to take up the surplus of white labor, how would it do for the colored men and women who have recently come from the south to work in Chicago to go to their old homes and work there until such a time as industrial conditions improve here.

OBSERVER.

UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM MENACE TO CHICAGO

Chicago Defender 3/12/21

By W. L. EVANS

(Industrial Secretary Chicago Urban League)

With 15,000 unemployed men of our race in Chicago, and this number added to daily, the situation is probably the most critical in recent years. Judging from the number coming each day in search of work, it seems highly advisable to issue a statement of facts to prospective migrants. Few, if any, of those who have migrated to Chicago during the recent months have improved their condition. On the other hand, they have complicated and accentuated an already difficult situation. Every day brings new arrivals to the office of the Chicago Urban League from points in the south and middle west. Most of these are penniless and homeless, and are forced to seek shelter and food from charitable organizations.

A committee which surveyed the unemployment situation on the south side was credibly informed that there are approximately a thousand homeless men in the district from 18th to 35th streets, and from Wentworth to Indiana avenues. A little more than 100 of these are provided shelter through the Citizens' Relief Committee; others are sleeping in poolrooms, doorw[illegible]er rooms, police stations, and wherever permission can be obtained to sleep on floors and chairs.

During the month of February the Chicago Urban League, acting as a clearing house for the Citizens' Relief Committee, issued 9,326 tickets for food and shelter to destitute men. Over 2,000 were provided shelter and 7,008 meals served. A total of 5,276 men applied to the league for 56 jobs; 1,858 women applied for 164 jobs, thus giving a total of 7,134 persons applying for 231 jobs.

David R. Forgan, president of the National City Bank of Chicago, says: "American industrial conditions are as critical as has been experienced within 44 years, not excepting 1893 and 1907." With many industries closed and few more than 50 per cent normal, a warning to those who contemplate coming to Chicago seems necessary.

We sympathize with the Southerner who has come North. We know why he has come and why many of his Race now in the South will follow him, but we feel it our duty to tell you of conditions here so that you may not leave your homes uninformed. Industrial competition in Chicago is keen, and an efficiency is demanded superior to that indigenous Southern life. Many people who have been unable to successfully meet the test of increased efficiency noticeable since jobs are few are the first among the unemployed. Some have not been in Chicago long enough to become accustomed to Northern methods, while others have failed to heed warnings to make good their opportunities. People all over the North are being put to the test of surviving the present period of industrial depression. At the same time they are forced to compete with those having larger experience in industry. Add to this exorbitant rents and high living costs, and one can easily understand how our bread line has grown from a few to more than 400. Whether the return to normal industrial conditions will include or exclude all the people now in Chicago is the concern of every citizen. One thing is certain, however, and that is, the number should not be increased at present.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH DEC 17

PACKERS CUT WAGES; REVISE WORK HOURS

Chicago Whip 3/12/21

Eight Cents an Hour Reduction Starts Monday; 8,000 Hit on South Side.

A decrease in wages and a readjustment of working hours in the stock yards industry were announced today by the big packing companies.

Approximately 35,000 persons employed in Chicago and 150,000 employed in other cities are affected by the cut.

Of the 35,000 Chicagoans who are affected 8,000 of our people on the South Side will feel the effect of the cut in wages.

Wages will be reduced 8 cents an hour to employees who work on the hourly basis. Those who are employed on piece work will be decreased 12½ per cent.

Each employe will be guaranteed forty hours' work a week, as at present, but overtime at the rate of time and one-half will not start until the employe has worked fifty-four hours in any one week, or ten hours in any one day.

Double time will be paid for work on Sundays and holidays.

The cut becomes effective next Monday.

Can Earn as Much Pay.

"Despite the lower rate which will obtain, employes can probably earn as much or more than under existing conditions. The forty-hour minimum wage with its basic eight-hour day has demonstrated positively during the two years that it has been in effect that it results in decreased weekly wage earnings for the employes. The adjustment should enable all plant employes to average forty-eight hours' wages per week and their earnings will compare favorably with the earnings of similar workmen in other industries.

"We are in complete sympathy with short work day and fair wage theories and our problem is to attune these theories as nearly as possible to the actualities which we encounter in dealing with producers and consumers."

Move Made Necessary.

"The revision in hours and wages is designed to make it possible for the industry to continue to serve live stock producers and meat consumers. The employers' desires under the circumstances are not at issue; the fact is simply that the business cannot exist if its expenses are greater than its margins.

"The reduction of 12½ per cent is very small in view of the fact that packinghouse wages average three times as much today as they were before the war. The main objective in revising hours is to assure work in return for the wages which are paid, thereby obviating the penalty incurred through the payment of large sums for which no work is performed. We will continue paying double time for Sundays and holidays and time and a half for work in excess of fifty-four hours a week."

LOWERING THE WAGE SCALE

Chicago Defender 3/19/21

THE WAVE OF PROSPERITY that struck this country some three years ago has just about spent its force, and as it dies out it is leaving in its wake a business depression the like of which we have not felt since 1894. From the wild way the price of every commodity soared, and the heights the wage scale attained, it was evident that sooner or later the bottom would fall out of things and in the crash many would be financially hurt.

ONE OR TWO RAILROADS have gone into bankruptcy; others have reduced their working force 30 per cent. The steel industry is practically at a standstill. Large mills and factories are working only a part of their force and now the big packers, such as Armour and Swift, have announced a wage cut approximately 20 per cent with time and a half only after a ten-hour day. All of these radical changes were made necessary by the stringent times. Today with great hordes of unemployed men and women seeking work of any kind at any price mumbling come from the heads of unions threatening a general strike if employers insist upon cutting wages.

EVERY MAN is entitled to pay commensurate with his work and the general cost of necessities. When sugar was 28 cents a pound and other foodstuffs, clothing, etc., likewise at an almost prohibitive price, wages should be correspondingly advanced. When sugar is down to 8 cents and other things have taken a similar tumble the worker has no justifiable grounds for demanding the excessive wage. How are we ever going to get back to a normal basis if each one refuses to do his part?

THIS IS NO TIME for rocking the boat. The powers that be are having their hands full trying to keep us out of foreign entanglements. Internal disorder means simply adding fuel to the flames. The public is in sympathy with organized labor in its fight to get fair treatment from capital. But organized labor must adjust itself to prevailing conditions and not autocratically demand the impossible if they would hold this public favor.

WHERE DO WE STAND in this mighty battle for existence? The majority of our workers are outside the pale of unionism. Not because they wish to be but because in many instances they have been barred from linking their fortunes with them. Naturally, with no strong organization to champion our cause, the first help to be discharged comes from our ranks. We must live, and if we cannot get a whole loaf we will take the part of the loaf we can get. This means a tumbling of wages that will affect all classes, for the employer who can secure our services for 75 cents per hour will not pay the other worker $1 simply because he is white. This is a situation for which the unions themselves are entirely responsible.

THE WIDESPREAD reduction being made in wages undoubtedly will result in a lower cost of living. And if the radical element of the Federation of Labor is checked from throwing the whole organization into a panicky, nervous, resentful state business will shortly revive, the demand for labor will increase and as supply and demand regulate the price the wage scale should give this powerful body no uneasiness. The unions have accomplished great things. The American worker is a king beside his brother workers in the older countries. He gives orders as well as receives them, but he must not forget if he demands privileges he must make concessions. If he seeks advantages he must accept responsibilities. If he makes contracts he must keep them. If he wants power, full power in the economic world, he must take his black fellow workman as a partner.

Soft Jobs Gone For Men Working Way In Colleges

Constitutions 5/10/21

BY JAMES L. KILGALLEN,
United News Staff Correspondent.

Chicago, May 9.—Pity the poor college chap.

Added to Mr. Edison's indictment that he is "woefully ignorant" comes a heavier and more crushing blow. He can't line up a summer vacation job. At least he knows enough to swing a pink and shovel, but he can't even get a job at that. The jobs aren't, that's all. Some 6,000,000 men are out of work.

Furthermore, if he does land a summer job the "stake" is going to be smaller and harder to earn.

William J. Mather, head of the University of Chicago's employment bureau, says the soft snaps of yesteryears are gone—and the students, who are beginning to call upon him for assistance, realize it.

"Last summer the college man could pick his job," said Mather. "They could earn $6 and $7 a day without trouble.

"Farmers were crying for help then. Now they have no jobs. This is tough on the college men, especially the athletically inclined, who like the vigorous work on the farm.

"The easy 'white collar' jobs are gone, too. The only openings are for highly skilled workers, such as statisticians and cost accountants. This requires special training.

"The college chap must either go into the open manual labor market and offer his services in competition with those of the laborer with a family to support, or try the highly specialized jobs. The students do not like to compete with the laborers with families to support."

But there is one place where the college man will reign supreme, in spite of the labor surplus, that is at the summer resorts. College men make ideal swimming instructors. "Ignorance" notwithstanding, every summer finds them the idols of the summer resorts.

URBAN LEAGUE FINDS WORK FOR 614 PERSONS

Chicago Tribune

The industrial department of the Chicago Urban League found work for 614 persons in the month of October. This is more than the total placements of the Illinois Free Employment Office in either Aurora, Decatur, Springfield, Danville or Joliet. Out of these Aurora came nearest with 604. In Chicago the Illinois Free Employment Office placed a total of 705 persons, and in the whole state 9,962.

The league is happy to give out these figures, which show that it compares very well with other similar agencies. The league has not only sent persons where calls have come or help, but has succeeded in placing men in 11 new businesses which formerly had not used the league service.

Labor – 1921.

Illinois

Demand for.

JOBLESS MEN BUILD DUGOUT HOMES

Chicago Tribune 6/19/21

Forty-five colored men who have been unable to find employment are summering on the lake front at 31st street and finding Chicago a first class summer resort. They have built eight huts in an embankment and will build seven more. The colony is known as Troye's camp, because John Troye, the "captain" of the outfit, conceived the idea. Frank Brown is the "sergeant." Twenty-five of the men are former soldiers. Fifteen served with Chicago's "Ol' 8th" regiment, and a number were decorated for bravery. They are fed by Olivet Baptist church, Ebenezer church, and the Second Ward Republican club. They're for law and order at all times—and they have a guardhouse.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor – 1921.

Demand for

SAVANNAH GA. PRESS

FEBRUARY 14 1921

RECORDS SHOW FOUR WHITES TO ONE NEGRO PROPORTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN CITY

George Strongman, Manager of Federal Municipal Employment Service, Issues an Appeal in Behalf of Those Out of Jobs—Situation, He States, Is Distressing.

The proportion of whites as compared with negroes who are out of employment, according to the records of the federal-municipal employment service, is four to one.

George Strongman, who is manager of the service, says the condition of affairs among the unemployed is becoming more and more acute. Men, he says, leave the employment bureau office on the first floor of the city hall with tears in their eyes when told there is no work.

Up to Employers.

Mr. Strongman is urging all employers of labor to do everything in their power to alleviate the situation among the men who are out of jobs. "I wish every employer who can use one or more men would communicate with us here," said Mr. Strongman. "The situation is, to say the least, distressing, and everyone who is able to give someone work should consider it a duty to do so."

The services of the bureau are extended to everyone without any charge whatsoever.

Serious Increase In Unemployment Seen in Georgia

Department of Labor Reports Further Drop in Employment in February.

Constitution 3/17/21

Washington, March 16.—The number of persons employed in the United States continued to decrease during February, the department of labor's employment service announced tonight in its monthly survey of the unemployed. The decrease for last months as compared with January was estimated at 1 per cent.

The percentage of employed showed the greatest increase in Chattanooga, Tenn., amounting to 67.6 over January.

The employment service made no attempt to estimate the size of the nation's army of jobless workers, but its figures showed that 1,523 firms, located in the 65 principal industrial centers of the country, had in their employ February 28 a total of 1,626,958 workers as compared with 1,643,253 on January 31. This was a net decrease of 16,295.

South Atlantic States.

Industrial depression continues in the South Atlantic district, including Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, the report said. Unemployment in Virginia cities has given the farmers of that state needed help with favorable results. Richmond, Danville, Lynchburg and Roanoke reported unemployment in a number of trades. Many North Carolina cotton mills have resumed operations, but shipbuilding is slack. Charleston, S. C., reported unemployment along the water front and among unskilled labor. Spartanburg reported little unemployment and at Greenville it is not serious.

Atlanta, Savannah and Augusta reported serious unemployment. Jacksonville reported unemployment in the building trades, shipping, lumber and turpentine industries, but indications of relief were looked for. Key West reported unemployment in the cigar industry, and Pensacola is suffering from serious unemployment in the turpentine and by-products industry, shipbuilding and dock workers. Unemployment conditions at Tampa indicated about 40 per cent of the building trades and other trades average from 10 to 30 per cent.

Mines Are Idle.

In southeastern Kentucky and Tennessee about one-third of the mines are not being worked. Railroad shops in Louisville have laid off about 800 workmen. Memphis reported 7,000 unemployed. Chattanooga reported that less than 75 per cent of the normal number are employed.

Jackson, Tenn., reported that many firms were working half their number of employees. At Birmingham railroad shops laid off many employees. Mobile reported building trades as normal.

Unemployment in Atlanta Serious Problem for City

Constitution 5/23/21

(From The Journal of Labor.)

Regardless of what may be said to the contrary, there are too many, altogether too many, men and women out of employment in Atlanta, and some movement should be inaugurated to provide employment for those who desire to earn an honest living.

There is no more pitiful sight on this earth than a jobless man—a man willing and eager to work—to labor to obtain sustenance for himself and his brood.

The fellow who looks from day to day for a place that will keep alive the man that is in him—the man who—and his name is legion—would suffer the pangs of hunger to the extreme rather than beg or seek the door of charity—whose pride would never allow his footsteps to cross that door marked "charity." Such a man is unfortunate.

It is said on authority that in the boundary of this country five million people are out of employment, a larger number than before the recent war.

Here in the south we remember the doleful year of 1914, when legions of men sought work in vain, when armies of clerks, bookkeepers, railroad men and salesmen and other office help swelled the throngs of skilled and unskilled labor, begging, not for food and shelter, but for an opportunity to earn these for themselves and their dependants. And the pity of it was that the work was here for them to do—work necessary for the common welfare. But the wail went up from press, pulpit and forum, there was no money in sight to pay for doing this work.

It was only after a bitter fight in council that an appropriation was made that year for the extension of a sewer. It required the combined efforts of the press and the pulpit and the Atlanta Federation of Trades of this city before the council agreed to appropriate thirty-two thousand dollars for the project. When the time arrived to recruit a force for the work thousands assembled. Men, skilled and unskilled, white and black, all eager and anxious to exchange their labor for the necessary funds to provide food and shelter for themselves and family. We had hoped God would spare us such another sight.

But it does look like we are again to witness a struggle for bread—it may not be acute—so far as numbers are concerned, but those who are already affected can feel hunger's pangs as keenly in a group small in numbers as can be felt in a multitude.

A work famine—it is the cruelest of all famines—it is more far-reaching in its direful effects—it means fearful hours of anxious watchfulness, accompanied with portentous, gloomy and woeful imaginings and cruel forebodings. Wise is the city that guards well its gates against the entry of this most dreaded of all famines. This monster is cruel and exacting in its toll and counts among its victims men, women and children. Its appetite cries out for more than physical life of the child and men and women. It robs too often the man of his pride: his manhood, courage, bravery and firmness; it blots and puts a smear on the sweetness and loveliest in womanhood; and murders the child at the mother's breast.

May the good Lord defend all our people against such a condition.

Will Atlanta be saved from a work-famine?

Too many at the present time are unable to secure employment—gaunt want is already pushing at the door of many. It will not be many days with some before this awful spectre will be seated at the table of some very worthy people.

The Journal of Labor makes the suggestion that a meeting of representatives of the various civic bodies, the pulpit and the press hold a meeting and learn the true situation. If the situation is such as to call for action, the committee can make recommendations, the carrying out of which would forestall any serious consequences.

We suggest that the county officials cease for a time its road-building—such inactivity would not be an injury to any—and apply a good part of the county funds to other work—some construction.

What, with a work-famine and the city crying financial distress, the outlook is not so pleasing and agreeable.

It it is found that suffering and want is prevalent by reason of lack of employment, the proper course to pursue is to make employment for the unemployed.

Let there be no discussion of charity—not even a suggestion of alms. Provide employment and allow the honest worker to maintain his manhood. Charity may render temporary assistance, but the cost is too great to be encouraged.

A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

Constitution 5-23-21

The situation as regards unemployment of labor the country over—in Atlanta, as in practically every other large center of population—has become so acute that it demands thoughtful and constructive attention.

As to the situation locally, The Atlanta Journal of Labor truthfully says, in an editorial which we reproduce elsewhere upon this page, "a work famine is the cruelest of all famines," not only depriving the laborer and his loved ones of the means of subsistence, but "it too often robs him of his pride, his manhood, his courage!"

Conditions in this respect are no worse in Atlanta, perhaps, than in many other cities, and certainly not as bad as in some; but that fact does not relieve this community of any measure of its burden, or of its responsibility to those who are vainly seeking honorable employment.

The director general of the United States employment service estimates that at the beginning of the current year 7,400 working men and women were out of employment in Atlanta; but that since then "Atlanta has shown an increase of 16.4 per cent in employment in eight industrial concerns employing, on January 31, 5,516 employees."

From this same source it is learned that "the total reduction in employment in industries in the United States between January 1, 1920, and January 1, 1921, was 3,331,352, since which time employment in 1,424 industrial concerns in the United States employing 1,600,000 last January 31, has shown a net decrease of 2.9 per cent, or 47,385;" which indicates that the condition of unemployment is general throughout the country, and by no means limited to Atlanta or to any other industrial community.

Our labor contemporary makes a valuable and timely suggestion that public improvements should now be pushed to the utmost as a means of bridging over this crisis.

This, too, applies generally, but nowhere more appropriately than right here in Atlanta.

Upon every similar occasion in the past it has been the general policy to speed up work in times of industrial stagnation, so as to relieve the unemployment situation as much as possible while giving business time in which to readjust itself.

That should be the policy now, and especially in Atlanta, where there is so much public improvement work that needs to be done.

The county, for example, contemplates the construction of a commodious new jail.

It recently acquired a plot of ground adjoining the courthouse, with the idea of erecting upon it a jail plant to take the place of the Tower.

This will be a big construction job, affording work for a large force of men. It will have to be done sooner or later. Why not put it under way when labor needs work?

The city, too, has a vast amount of construction work to do; and now is the time of times to start it.

Atlanta recently voted an $8,-$50,000 bond issue for public improvements; but, unfortunately that money is temporarily tied up by litigation in the courts. Otherwise it could be used as needed to supply work for many hands that are now unwillingly idle in this city.

The unemployment situation in Atlanta presents a big enough and a serious enough problem to bring all elements of the people together in an effort to find the solution of the problem.

This is a serious situation, and surely Atlanta is big enough, broad-minded enough and resourceful enough to master it!

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Interesting Facts Revealed Relative To Unemployment

The Atlanta Constitution 9/20/37

Savannah, Ga., September 19.—(Special.)—The analysis of the figure gathered locally during the last week, "Employment week," in Savannah, show some interesting things. It was definitely indicated first of all that there were not as many unemployed, either white or black, male or female, as many had supposed.

Registration fell off the second day and the last two days of the special drive for jobs for the jobless found no applicants for jobs.

It showed that by far the most of the unemployed in the city were unskilled laborers who came to the priced labor failed in the town.

It has shown that many classes are represented in "gainful occupation" work now who until they were pressed into service by the stress of war, were not productive workers—mainly women and girls—and could not in normal times be classed formerly as "workers."

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor — 1921.

Louisiana.

Demand for.

NEW ORLEANS LA ITEM
APRIL 10, 1921

Negroes to Work As Carpenters At Cut Rates

Negro carpenter labor in New Orleans will work for a "reasonable wage" to stimulate the building boom, according to J. D. Hagans, negro carpenter, who claims to represent 1200 colored carpenters recently dismissed from the local carpenters' union during the strike on the Hibernia bank building.

Hagans declined to stipulate any definite wage scale at which the colored carpenters would work, but declared they would bargain for the wage and intimated that some classes of work would be done for 75 cents an hour and some for less. He declared the decision had been reached at a meeting of 12 leaders of the colored carpenters, when a resolution embodying the "reasonable wage" idea was passed and it was decided definitely to droy all union affiliation. He says the action of the meeting had the endorsement of the great majority of non-union negro carpenters.

"There is a big building boom in New Orleans and the negro carpenters are willlng to do their share," said Hagans. The union carpenter wage scale is 90 cents an hour.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor — 1921.

Maryland.

Demand for.

"SALE" OF MEN OLD STORY IN RECORDS OF CITY'S HISTORY

Last Auction Disposing Of Personal Services Held During Civil War — Negro Offender Given This Alternative From Jail Sentence

ANNAPOLIS MD. ADVERTISER
SEPTEMBER 22, 1921

ROUSED PRESS TO STRONG STORM OF DENUNCIATION

Times have been when the services of men were sold at public auction in Annapolis, it is recalled by venerable citizens whose memories are aroused by recent comment of the press about the sales which have created a sensation in Boston, have been forbidden by Governor Ritchie and Mayor Broening in Baltimore, and are rousing a protest from civic bodies in New York, in the last of which "Mr. Zero," the Bostonian who originated the idea, is now making an effort to have the "sales" put on.

The last time that the spectacle of a public sale of services was conducted in Annapolis was during the Civil War, when one Dick Harris, colored, stepped upon the block as a choice to avoid a jail sentence. Harris had been convicted of petty larceny, having been caught in the theft of a piece of beef from a butcher shop in Annapolis.

Harris' trial was short and to the point, and the sentence imposed in the case gave him the choice of going to jail or being sold into a brief period of servitude. The choice was given as the result of a strong and eloquent appeal to the court, presented by H. P. Morgan, a strong Republican, and one of the prominent lawyers of Anne Arundel at that time.

The negro had no difficulty in making up his mind as to his preference and accordingly agreed to the sale.

The sale drew a considerable crowd and several of the spectators placed bids. The highest bidder was George King, a butcher. Unfortunately there is no answer to the natural question as to whether King was the same butcher from whom Harris had stolen the piece of meat. Nor is it related what price was paid for the services of Harris.

Harris left the sale happily, glad to have avoided the jail sentence. Being back in the beef business did not seem to matter to him.

A unique twist of the affair was that Harper's Weekly, then one of the most influential publications in the country, being advised of the matter, had a picture made of Harris on the block. This was published with pitiful tales of the sale, which was set up as an act of brutality. No consideration was given to the fact that the sale had been of Harris' own choice and had saved him from a jail term.

Labor - 1921.

Massachusetts.

Demand for,

NEGRO IS 'FIRST ON BLOCK

BOSTON MASS. TELEGRAM
SEPTEMBER 8, 1921

Is "Taken" by Woman Philanthropist of Charlestown

By CHESTER DURGIN

Stripped to the waist, Joe Mitchell, 34, a huge negro from the Virgin Islands, was offered at auction to the highest bidder, who might have his services for a week at hard labor, by Urbain Ledoux, known as "Mr. Zero," from the Parkman bandstand on the Common today.

Mitchell said he had been without work for six months and had no home. He said he had often subsisted on two meals a week. His clothes were ragged and his shoes without soles.

"Mr. Zero" offered him to anyone who would feed and shelter him for a week. Mrs. Annie S. Jackson of 9 Lynde st., Charlestown, came forward and promised to pay for Mitchell's keep for a week while he looks for work. She further promised him a second week in case he finds no employment the first week.

Receives Gifts

John Farley of Dorchester, a resident of Boston for 50 years, gave Mitchell a dollar to buy some "delicacies."

A man named Kiley offered to give the negro a pair of shoes, and a traveling man who had given Mr. Zero $2 to "buy beans with" promised to leave a suit of clothes at Zero's Church for the man.

Following Mitchell, William Davis, a 17-year-old boy, was offered. The boy said that during the war he had worked as a tailor's apprentice and saved $300 which he had been forced to spend in the loafing of a year.

Mr. and Mrs. James Granger of 14 James st., South End, took the boy home with them after promising to feed and shelter him for a week and pay him $2 for what services he might render them.

No Bid for This One

Jem Paris, a French-Lithuanian who had served four years in the army, was also offered, but no one bid for him. Mr. Zero then auctioned Paris' dog, which was bought for $5 by W. H. Butler of the Textile World. Mr. Butler gave the dog back to Paris.

Resolutions thanking Mayor Peters for his kindness to the Shorn Lambs of Labor, and their leader Mr. Zero, were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Zero promised another auction for tomorrow at the Parkman bandstand.

HARDING ACTS TO AID JOBLESS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8. — President Harding's unemployment congress will be held within the next two weeks, Secretary of Commerce Hoover announced today.

He indicated that it will be composed of about 30 delegates. Whether agriculture will be represented was discussed today by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace with the President.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Labor – 1921.

Mississippi.

Demand for.

THE MISSISSIPPI BOOMERANG 2/26/21

Times Plaindealer

The farm system in the State of Mississippi flowered a few years ago, and is now going to seed—more literally than poetically. Hundreds of white planters in the Delta, who, through a well developed piece of chicanery, have fattened on the common law system of forcing Negro share-croppers to hold their cotton, now find themselves victims of their own schemes. The Delta fast becomes an economic wreck, with both white and black suffering financial loss.

The share-cropper or renter (as they are termed), it is charged, enters into an agreement with the white land owner to make a crop—usually cotton—on shares; the tenant to receive two-thirds and the landlord one-third. But, the tenant must not sell to any one but the owner of the land. or, to the same purpose, the white landlord reserves the right to sell the two-third crop of the black tenant. Plainly, the Negro share-cropper in the Delta cannot sell his own cotton.

By mean manipulation ,"superior" figuring, this mendacious system begot DEBT—of course, the renter stays in perpetual debt to the land owner—and atop this DEBT floats that miasmal scum, the PEONAGE SYSTEM.

Then ,just as this system was in full bloom along came the whirlwind of war; there was a general shake-up, and the share-cropper with his family and scanty belongings answered the pull of the great, throbbing industrial centers.

Now that we are back to normal, or nearly so, Mississippi finds her rich delta lands still in a deplorable condition. The boomerang has made a clashing return. It means that the Delta must have a new day, a clean page, a fair system of share-cropping.

And not alone must there be square dealing between the white land owner and the black tenant, but the state must also extend its educational system. The State Superintendent of Education recently reported 50 agricultural high schools for whites and NONE for Negroes, notwithstanding the report showed 382,569 Negro children against 328,216 white children in the Mississippi rural schools. Then think of the thousands of Negro children in the Delta who never see a teacher of any sort.

The burden is on Mississippi. The return of the boomerang—her uncultivated acres and decreaed production in cotton. corn and sugar—was the fruit of a blunder in policy. And it has been well said, that one who has blundered, but is not able to cash the experience, is a FAILURE!

With the fertility of the Delta—and Southern land in general, for that matter—sufficient to guarantee all hands a gracious return, there need be no failure.

SQUARE JUSTICE and a ROUNDED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM is the prescription—TO BE TAKEN INTERNALLY.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

New York.

Labor- 1921.

Demand for.

N. Y. C. OUTLOOK
JANUARY 19, 1921

NEGROES AND UNEMPLOYMENT

WIDELY published reports recently appeared in the press which told of a general round-up of unemployed Negroes in Buffalo, a round-up which, it was alleged, resulted in the terrorization of the Negro population of Buffalo and an enforced exodus from that city to the South. The real facts in the case have been sent us at our request by the Chief of Police, and by one of Buffalo's leading citizens who has personally investigated the situation at the instance of The Outlook. The latter writes:

> There were about 3,000 Negroes in this city, men, women, and children, when the great demand for additional labor caused many war industries to bring in Negroes from the South to do additional work. Naturally, these Negroes, most of them from rural localities, were absolutely unfamiliar with the conditions in the Northern cities. They were mostly of the happy-go-lucky character so common to-day among the young Negroes of the South. They readily obtained employment not calling for any particular skill, but calling for strength and willingness, and obtained this employment at wages they never dreamed of. They spent their money upon, for them, riotous living, often playing craps and other games to

HENRY F. ASHURST, SENATOR FROM ARIZONA

C. N. McARTHUR, REPRESENTATIVE FROM OREGON

which they are addicted. They were willing to huddle together in small rooms to save rent, that they might have more money to spend in having a good time. Very few of them saved up any money. When the period of unemployment began, shortly before Thanksgiving, many of them at once began to feel the pinch, and the bad Negroes, of whom there were some, began to commit crimes. Thereupon the police arrested about 100 Negroes, largely upon suspicion, of whom, beyond doubt, a majority were innocent of any real crime. The majority of these Negroes were discharged, and only a few were convicted of crimes after trial or pleaded guilty to crimes because they were caught red-handed. The guilty Negroes were sentenced accordingly, and many of those who were discharged were thoroughly frightened, and either withdrew savings, where they had any, or borrowed money from friends and returned to the South.

This authority states that the percentage of unemployment among the Negroes of Buffalo does not differ much from the percentage of unemployment among the white laborers. He adds that the old resident Negroes of Buffalo have been substantially unaffected by the present increasing unemployment.

The Chief of Police states that the order for a general clean-up included whites as well as colored men, and the copy of the order which he sends us corroborates this statement. This order was given as a result of a very marked increase in crime. He says that in November there were twenty hold-ups in Buffalo, ten of which were perpetrated by white men and ten by colored men. During the same period there were sixty-three burglaries committed, two by whites and four by colored men, and fifty-seven of whom the authors were unknown.

According to the Buffalo "Express," a Negro attorney from New York has investigated the situation in Buffalo and reached the following conclusions:

> I have found the courts and the people of the city in sympathy with the Negro people. I have found that there was a real outbreak of crime in the city, and I know from my experience as an attorney that the police were justified in taking precautionary measures.

This Negro attorney puts his finger upon the real nub of the situation when, in discussing the Southern emigration to Buffalo, he says:

> When those boys began to come up from the South the Negro people of Buffalo should have taken measures to form societies to work among these boys to direct them along the right paths, to befriend them, and help them become useful citizens of the city.

Such clean-ups as took place in Buffalo and are taking place in many other American cities to-day are necessarily matters of local expediency rather than of real social benefit. It is of no Natonal advantage to drive the vicious element of one community to another community. As a method of social reform, the order to "move on" accomplishes nothing. It is very like the objectionable practice of dumping garbage over your neighbor's fence. If all the neighbors indulge in the same tactics, the community in the end will be back just where it started.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13

Maryland.

Labor—1921.

Discrimination

BALTIMORE MD. MORN. SUN
MARCH 17, 1921

COLOR LINE IN LABOR BODY

Negro Delegates Charge Discrimination At Meeting.

The color line came to the fore in the discussions last night at the Baltimore Federation of Labor. Negro delegates from one of the longshoremen's unions protested against what they termed discrimination at the massmeeting of labor held at the Lyric Theatre Sunday a week ago. They charged that when the longshoremen arrived at the meeting with about 1,500 members in line, they were told by members of the committee of arrangements that "all negroes must go into the gallery, as it was against the law for colored men to sit in any other part of the house."

President Henry F. Broening explained that there must be some mistake; that the longshoremen were consigned to the gallery because of their numbers and not because of color, and if any member of the committee said otherwise he spoke without authority. This explanation seemed to mollify the colored delegates, and they promised to report accordingly to their locals.

Texas.

Labor - 1921.

Discrimination

MORGAN LINE AGENT REFUSES TO AGREE TO SEPARATE RACES

A defense of the mixing of whites and Negroes on the docks at Galveston by the Morgan Steamship Co. is made in a statement given out by H. M. Wilkins, general agent of the line.

Wilkins says whites and blacks are mixed on the docks at New Orleans. He says they work side by side in the SP. shops in Houston and in practically every important industry in the state. He says they sit in the councils of the Longshoremen's union and in the conventions of the American Federation of Labor.

He assures the white men left the employ of the company at Galveston when the strike occured and were replaced by Negroes. The Negroes have moved their families to Galveston and are becoming more efficient workers day by day and the company does not propose to discharge them now. He says 90 percent of the dock workers are Negroes.

He says an agreement to employ only white men would be against public policy and also in violation of penal statutes of the state and such an agreement would not be valid.

TEXANS OPPOSE LOW WAGE LAW

HOUSTON, Tex., March 9.—The minimum wage law which is to be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature is sure to cause a bitter fight in this state. The objection to the law is based largely on the fact that it is applied flatly over the state to colored, white and Mexican women alike. The Texans contend that colored and Mexican women should not receive a guarantee of $12 a week, and while the Federation of Labor is fighting for the bill it probably will be defeated.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH RET 17

Labor — 1921.

District of Columbia.

Domestic Service.

SERVANT FAMINE IS KEENLY FELT IN WASHINGTON

KOKOMO IND TRIBUNE
JANUARY 22, 1921

No White Women Can Be Had At Any Price and Colored Are Uncertain.

THE SITUATION A PROBLEM

Families Arriving For the New Administration Are Up Against It.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22.—Families arriving in Washington with the incoming administration will find themselves confronted with an unprecedented situation as regards domestic service.

No white women are available as servants at any price. There are few colored women, trained or untrained, to be had, and of the few who accept positions, the majority cannot be relied on to remain more than a few weeks.

But for the first time in the history of the capital, more men are applying for positions as butlers, housemen and even cooks than can be placed, and experienced men, colored or white, can be had by any one who will pay the price.

Cooks, colored or white, are listed at from $75 to $125 a month, if men, and between $50 to $75 a month if women. Housemen rate from $50 a month on up, as against housemaids at from $40 upward, though nursemaids are getting, if they will accept positions, from $50 to $60, and a nursery governess can get as high as $100 a month.

Butlers are rated at $75 a month if white and $50 a month if colored. White chauffeurs must have $100 a month, colored chauffeurs average from $60 to $75, and housemen, colored and white, range from $50 to $60.

A maid sent to the residence of Mrs. Dewey, widow of the admiral, recently returned to the employment office saying simply that she did not think she would like the place. She had not remained long enough to take off her hat.

A young white girl, one of the rare few who have appeared at the bureau in months, refused $60 a month from Mrs. James MacDonald, who had offered to train her as a lady's maid, and would have taken her with her when she goes abroad.

Florida

Labor — 1921.

Domestic Service

JACKSONV'LE FLA METROPOLIS
MARCH 24 1921

Colored Cooks Are Slow in Responding to State Class Here

A disappointing number of colored cooks presented themselves for instruction in culinary arts at the school at Broad and Ashley streets Wednesday, according to Miss Lucy C. Cushman, state supervisor for home economics, who is conducting the school. Miss Cushman declared the lessons were designed especially for the benefit of mistresses of colored cooks, who have to direct them in their work now.

"The course includes instruction in planning meals, serving and cooking," Miss Cushman explained. "It would be of benefit to the manage of every housewife, if she would send her cook to the school for instruction."

Sixteen lessons will be given, the first having been presented Wednesday. The next will be offered Friday. Two a week will be heard Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 5 p. m., having been selected as the days for instruction.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 17

Labor - 1921.

Louisiana.

Domestic Service

SHREVEPORT, LA., JOURNAL.
APRIL 14, 1921

SCHOOL FOR NEGRO SERVANTS.

Plans are being perfected by Hypatia, one of the oldest organizations of clubwomen in the state, for a special school of domestic science to be conducted in Shreveport for the benefit of negroes employed in local homes as cooks, maids, housegirls and in other domestic roles. The classes are to be held at the local negro high school, and are to be taught by instructors of the domestic science department of that school. They will be under general supervision of a committee of Hypatia, which is arranging to look after the financial end of the service.

According to the preliminary schedule, the school will open Saturday, April 23, and will continue for a period of at least six weeks. The classes will be conducted each Saturday afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock, and will be in session one hour and a half.

The primary purpose of this special school is to offer industrious and appreciative negro girls and women an opportunity of becoming better prepared to perform their duties in homes where they are employed or hope to be employed. Through these classes they will be instructed along modern practical lines, and will also have the benefit of demonstrations by those who have become especially trained as instructors. Many servants at present, through lack of proper teaching, are not qualified to render efficient service; they have only a smattering knowledge, gathered here and there; they know little or nothing obout the importance of cleanliness, economy, preparing menus and other things required of first-class employes in the homes.

Members of Hypatia hope to improve this situation through the special domestic science classes.

For this plan to meet with the success it deserves, there must be hearty co-operation from housewives, as well as from the employes who are invited to become students in the school. The schedule will be arranged so that those attending will not have to miss much time from their places of employment; the classes will not open until the middle of the afternoon, thereby giving employes plenty of time to complete their midday tasks before starting to school. Those employing negroes in their homes should encourage these employes to attend the school. One way in which to do this is to permit them to get off duty early enough Saturday to be present when the classes open; another is to impress upon them the fact that the promised instruction will make it easier for them to do their work.

Instruction such as Hypatia has in prospect under its supervision should, with proper co-operation, be of great benefit in the solution of the local servant problem. The undertaking is certainly worth encouraging, that it may be given opportunity of showing what it can accomplish.

Labor - 1921.

South Carolina.

Domestic Service.

SPARTANSBURG S C HERALD
JUNE 30, 1921

COLORED SERVANTS.

A very interesting and talented young woman, a native of lower South Carolina, who has spent several years abroad when in Spartanburg not so long ago, spoke in the highest terms of the efficiency of servants abroad in comparison with the discouraging prospects of ever having in the South from the "colored help" anything approaching the standards of capability found among those of similar callings in the Far East. She was inclined to place some of the responsibility for the indifference of the colored servant at the door of the Southern "white folks", who demand nothing of real ability and thoroughness from the average colored employe, but accept them as they are without raising a protest against their general triflingness. She was bred in South Carolina and acquainted with conditions, but still held to the opinion Southern people should demand more of their servants in thoroughness.

The contemplation of such a task is for the average Southern woman to despair, to throw up her lovely hands and cry for mercy, perhaps. But the question is one that will bear discussion, if it may not get us anywhere. As a matter of fact Southern people should realize, that in the very nature of things, they will have to live with a very considerable colored population all their lives. We of the South know that the most indifferent element of the colored race at this time is the since-the-war negro. The older members of the race, who were the objects of personal solicitation and training on the part of "their white folks" are rapidly passing. The few who remain, even in their feebleness, are still the most thoughtful and considerate of their employers and entertain the most accurate conception of their responsibilities. They try to be of service as servants —and they are.

But the younger negroes, brought up out of touch with white people, who have been interested in them or helpful, have no incentive to be capable. And apparently no idea of doing well, the work they are called upon to perform, enters into their heads. They are slovenly in their duties, irresponsible to an amazing degree, wasteful almost to the point of crime, and there is no industrial health in the great majority of them. They draw their pay for indifferent and annoying service—and the white folks who employ them say "just like a negro" and let it go at that.

Now, we are not yet prepared to say that this is a fundamental racial weakness in the negro, though there is much to sustain that point of view, because in the old order of things in the South, when the white folks who owned slaves, were good themselves, and took an interest and pride in their negroes, good servants and good men and women of the colored race were developed in considerable numbers.

The question to be asked is whether or not the Southern white folks, who are going to live with the colored folks for a great many generations yet to come, are going to study their responsibilities towards the negroes of the coming generations and meet these responsibilities in an intelligent way. Are they going to study the problem and act with honesty of purpose towards the colored population, that new standards may be established in the relations between the races. White people of the South cannot demand of the negro greater capacity for service and greater value in the service the colored person renders, and expect that demand to be met, without first aiding the negro towards a realization of his responsibilities. What is the answer?

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 13

Labor — 1921.

Virginia.

Domestic Service

Want Colored Girls Fired

Journal + Guide
2/26/21

Roanoke, Feb. 25.—Six hundred leading women of the city of Roanoke, members of the Civics Division of the Association of Commerce, have called upon the managers of all the public buildings in the city asking that colored girls that they are using to operate elevators in these buildings be replaced by men, and promising assistance of the committee to any girl now running an elevator, who is dismissed in order to be replaced by a man, in securing domestic employment.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 17